

REMARKS

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US99/03638, filed February 19, 1999 which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application No. 60/075,612, filed February 20, 1998. The International Application presented claims 1-109 for examination. All the claims were examined and met the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4) with respect to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability.

The office raised concerns with regard to clarity under Rule 66.2(a)(v) PCT with regard to claims 30, 57-61, and 95-104 because claims 30 and 57 were dependent upon themselves, and because claims 30, 95, 96, 99, and 100 presented multiple dependent claims which were dependent upon multiply dependent claims. Claims 30, 57, 95, 96, 99, and 100 have been amended as set forth above to avoid claim dependency upon themselves or multiple dependent claims upon multiple dependent claims so as to address each of the office's concerns.

The applicant having amended the claims as set out above now believes that each of claims 1-109 is in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

The applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to address the office's concerns regarding the clarity of claims 30, 57-61, and 95-104. These claims have been amended to address claims which are dependent upon themselves or are multiple claims which are dependent upon multiple claims. The applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-109 at the examiner's earliest convenience.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2000.

Respectfully Submitted,

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